

In the Claims:

1-123. (Canceled)

4. ~~124~~. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~SEQ ID NO: 377~~;
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~SEQ ID NO: 377~~,  
lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the nucleic acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 376~~;
- (d) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO:~~  
~~376~~; or
- (e) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession  
number 203092.

5. ~~125~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising a  
nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~SEQ ID NO: 377~~.

6. ~~126~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising a  
nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of ~~SEQ ID NO: 377~~, lacking its  
associated signal peptide.

127-128. Canceled.

7. ~~129~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the  
nucleic acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 376~~.

8. ~~130~~. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~ comprising the full-  
length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of ~~SEQ ID NO: 376~~.

9. ~~121~~ (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim ~~124~~<sup>4</sup> comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092.

132-134. (Canceled)

10. ~~125~~ (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim ~~119~~ or ~~129~~<sup>1</sup>.

11. ~~126~~ (Previously presented) The vector of Claim ~~125~~<sup>10</sup>, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.

12. ~~127~~ (Previously presented) An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim ~~125~~<sup>10</sup>.

13. ~~128~~ (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim ~~127~~<sup>12</sup>, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.

~~139. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to:~~

- ~~(a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;~~
- ~~(b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- ~~(c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or~~
- ~~(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;~~

~~wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.~~

140. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 85% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;  
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

1. 141. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to ~~Claim 139~~ having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;  
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

2. 142. (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to ~~Claim 139~~ having at least 95% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;

- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;  
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

**3. ~~143.~~** (Previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim ~~129~~<sup>1</sup> having at least 99% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 377, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 376; or
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203092;  
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.